

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9867

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 2130

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, UK, BH, GT

SUBJECT: BELIZE

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA, IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH ME AT FUNERAL SERVICES HERE APRIL 8, TOLD ME THAT HE HAD BEEN THINKING OF ASKING ME TO COME IN TO TALK ABOUT BELIZE. HE EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN AT LONG DELAY BY BRITISH IN RESUMING BELIZE CONVERSATIONS AND ALSO ASKED WHAT WAS BEHIND PRICE'S RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON. I TOLD HIM PRICE HAD DISCUSSED BELIZE AND HIS PLAN FOR A MULTILATERAL SECURITY GUARANTEE WITH THE SECRETARY.

2. IN LAMENTING BRITISH SLOWNESS IN RESUMING TALKS, MOLINA AGAIN EMPHASIZED GUATEMALA'S DESIRE TO REACH AGREEMENT AND FACT THEY HAD CONCEDED SO MUCH TO MAKE AGREEMENT POSSIBLE. WE AGREED PROSPECTS DID NOT LOOK BRIGHT AT THE MOMENT IN VIEW OF PRICE'S POSITION BUT I URGED HIM TO KEEP AT IT, NOTING THAT IN ANY CASE THEY WOULD LEAVE VALUABLE LEGACY FOR FUTURE ADMINISTRATION. NOT THE LEAST OF THIS LEGACY WAS WORK HE HAD PERSONALLY DONE IN EDUCATING GUATEMALAN PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT REALITIES OF BELIZE SITUATION.

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3. I TOUCHED BASE TODAY WITH BRITISH CONSUL MCQUILLAN TO LET HIM KNOW OF MOLINA'S ANXIETY ABOUT BRITISH DELAY ON RESUMPTION OF TALKS. MCQUILLAN SAID THAT AS IT TURNED OUT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS AND HAD MADE APPOINTMENT WITH MOLINA LATER TODAY TO CONVEY ROWLANDS' REPLY TO RECENT MOLINA LETTER. ROWLANDS WAS INQUIRING WHETHER MOLINA WOULD BE IN SAN JOSE FOR PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION IN EARLY

MAY SO THAT THEY COULD GET TOGETHER FOR CONVERSATION ON BILIZE

AT THAT TIME.

BOSTER

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